TOP SECRET

S/P - Mr. Watts

February 20, 1953

S/P - Walter Thurston

United States Objectives and Courses of Action with Respect to Latin America.

The accompanying "Statement of Policy Proposed by the National Security Council on United States Objectives and Courses of Action with Respect to Latin America" is acceptable within its inherent restrictive limitations. As an expression of policy, however, it suffers from the defect which, in my opinion, has impaired so many similar efforts. It seeks to create the impression that our policies toward Latin America are exclusively matters for our own determination, not governed or affected by existing international agreements, by our national character, or, what is more important, by the readiness of the countries to whom our policies are directed to acquiesce in them.

Omitting discussion of such generic problems as nationalism, anti-Americanism, communism and economic and political backwardness in this area, the actual day-to-day problems of our diplomacy which of necessity affect our policies are made up of practical problems. What treatment do we give Chilean copper in the American market; do we put up tariff barriers against the fishery products of the West Coast of Latin America; do we facilitate agreement with Bolivia on tin prices; do we advance our most important potential ally in Latin America, Brazil, the credits that are essential to its economic viability? These are but representative rhetorical presentations. There are many more. Any concept of American policy toward Latin America must contain some element of concession to the needs of that area, whether spiritual, economic or political.

Attachment:

Copy 25 of NSC Statement of Policy, dated 2/19/53.

S/P:WThurston:gw

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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